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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Starts a New Basic Education Project in the Kyrgyz Republic

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 10:00 A.M.

Place: Tynystanov Street 207, Bishkek, Ministry of Education and Science

A Memorandum of Understanding is being signed today between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) to launch a new USAID-funded basic education project in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The USAID Quality Learning Project is a regional project aimed to expand access to quality primary and secondary education in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

In Kyrgyzstan this project will be known as “Sapattuu Bilim”; and will be implemented by Creative Associates International, Inc. Running until September 2012 “Sapattuu Bilim” activities will build on achievements and lessons learned from USAID’s previous programs in basic education in the region. The project will also support government efforts to implement its National education strategies, including the Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Grant.

The project will result in improved student learning outcomes through:

- broad application of modern teaching and student assessment methodologies;
- introduction of formative assessment techniques into in-service and pre-service training programs to improve student learning
- participation of teachers in curriculum and education policy development;
- use of efficient school financing and management systems.

While promoting student-centered instructional methods, USAID Project “Sapattuu Bilim” will focus on supporting teachers to develop new instructional approaches and create the classroom environment and that enables students to learn a broader range of skills and knowledge. The project will work closely with the key state institutions that prepare and re-train teachers to update training programs and improve the training skills of their staff. The project will work with the Kyrgyz Academy of Education and Arbaev University to develop a package of interventions designed to improve teacher effectiveness in the classroom, before expanding activity across the country to work with other pedagogical universities and regional teacher training institutes and Rayon and City education departments. The project will build the capacity of these institutions and their staff to develop and deliver quality teacher training systems.

This project is made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Since 1992, the American people through USAID have provided more than \$400 million in programs that support Kyrgyzstan’s democratic institutions, health care, education, and economic growth.